

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /116 W
----- 076533

R 102044Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1701
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 4548

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJ: QUITO MAYOR AND PREFECT CONFIRMED IN THEIR JOBS

REF: QUITO 3693

1. MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT POVEDA ANNOUNCED IN A JULY 8 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT QUITO MAYOR SIXTO DURAN AND PICHINCHA PROVINCIAL PREFECT ALVARO PEREZ INTRIAGO WOULD BE CONTINUED INDEFINITELY IN THEIR POSTS. AMONG THE FEW REMAINING ELECTED LOCAL OFFICIALS, THEIR 4-YEAR TERMS WERE DUE TO EXPIRE ON JULY 31.

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS LOW-KEY, CONTINUING THE GOE'S RECENT HANDLING OF THIS POTENTIALLY TOUCHY QUESTION. IN CONTRAST WITH ITS INITIAL IMPULSE (REFTEL), NO OVERALL DECREE WILL BE ISSUED AND THE QUESTION OF REPLACING OR CONFIRMING ELECTED LOCAL OFFICIALS IS BEING HANDLED ON AN AD HOC, CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. THE PRESS HAS LATELY CARRIED SCATTERED NOTICES OF RESINGATIONS AND OTHER REPLACEMENTS, INCLUDING THE STATEMENT OF TWO ELECTED MEMBERS OF QUITO'S MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WHO CHOSE TO REITRE RATHER THAN BE CONTINUED IN OFFICE BY AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, ALL THIS HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH APPARENT
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INDIFFERENCE BY THE PUBLIC AT LARGE AND THE QUESTION

OF ELECTIONS -- NEVER REALLY A BURNING ISSUE -- SEEMS
TO BE BURIED FOR THE TIME BEING.

3. AS IF TO UNDERSCORE THE POINT, POVEDA ALSO TOOK THE
OCCASION TO REMIND ECUADORENAS THAT THE COUNTRY IS UNDER
MARTIAL LAW, AND THAT "LARGE-SCALE" (I.E., POLITICAL)
MEETINGS, EVEN THOSE HELD INDOORS, ARE FORBIDDEN WHEN
THEY HAVE "AN IMPLICATION OF ANTAGONISM FOR THE ACTION
BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT".
BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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